

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 /118 W

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R 221147Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 468

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ID

SUBJ: GOI SHUTS DOWN FOUR MORE DAILIES

REF: A. JAKARTA 0919 B. JAKARTA 0837(NOTAL)

1. DEFENSE SECURITY AUTHORITIES (KOPKAMTIB) HAVE
WITHDRAWN PUBLICATION PERMITS OF FOUR MAJOR JAKARTA
DAILIES PLUS TWO WEEKLIES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 21.
THEY ARE INDONESIA RAYA (INDEPENDENT); "ABADI" (MODERNIST
ISLAMIC FORMERLY LINKED WITH BANNED MASYUMI PARTY);
"HARIAN KAMI" (INDEPENDENT "GENERATION OF '66" STUDENT
DAILY); AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE "JAKARTA TIMES" (INDEPENDENT).
WEEKLIES WERE "PERMUDA MAHASISWA" (A YOUTH PUBLICATION
EXACTLY THREE ISSUES OLD) AND "WENANG" (WTCCH NO ONE
SEEMS TO HAVE HEARD OF). ANNOUNCEMENT MADE NO MENTION

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AS TO WHETHER SHUTDOWNS ARE PERMANENT OR, IF NOT, HOW
LONG THEY WILL BE IN EFFECT.

2. ACCORDING AUTHORITIES, THE OFFENDING PAPERS HAVE VIOLATED THE SPIRIT OF SOVERIGN "MAIN GUIDELINES OF STATE POLICY" AND THE 1966 PRESS LAW. MORE SPECIFICALLY (ACCORDING PRESS ACCOUNTS) THEY INCITED THE PEOPLE TO DISORDER, WHILE UNDERMINING THE AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP.

3. THIS BRINGS TOTAL NUMBER OF DAILIES BANNED SINCE THE RIOTS TO FIVE (NUSANTARA" SHUT DOWN JANUARY 17). IT LEAVES INDONESIA WITH NO ISLAMIC DAILY AND REDUCES THE NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT INDEPENDENTS TO FIVE (KOMPAS", "SINAR HARAPAN", "MERDEKA", "BERITA BUANA" AND "PEDOMAN").

4. "PEDOMAN," NOW OWNED BY STATE OIL COMPANY PERTAMINA BUT FORMERLY AFFILIATED WITH SOCIALIST PARTY (SOME OF WHOSE EX-LEADERS ARE AMONG THOSE RECENTLY DETAINED) MAY HAVE HAD A NARROW ESCAPE. JANUARY 22 ISSUE CONTAINS FRONT-PAGE BOX RETRACTING JANUARY 12 NEWS ITEM ABOUT STUDENT'S QUESTIONS TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO REGARDING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN MADAME TIEN SUHARTO AND VARIOUS BUSINESS FIRMS (FOR MORE ON THIS SUBJECT SEE REF A) AS PROFUSELY APOLOGETIC EDITORIAL.

5. AS IN CASE OF DETENTIONS (REFB); IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT MOST IF NOT ALL SHUTDOWNS WILL BE TEMPORARY (ALTHOUGH EVEN TEMPORARY CLOSURES COULD BADLY HURT LESS AFFLUENT INDEPENDENTS LIKE "KAMI" AND JAKARTA TIMES). IMPACT OF THESE CLOSURES ON REMAINING INDEPENDENTS WILL BE ENORMOUS AND WE EXPECT TO SEE NO MORE CONTROVERSIAL OR SHARPLY CRITICAL REPORTING IN THE INDONESIAN PRESS FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
GALBRAITH

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